

MAG Regional Concept of Transportation Operations

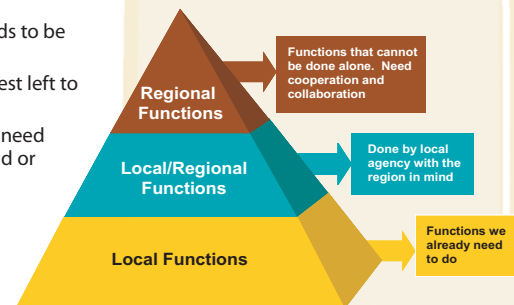
Vision: A safe, reliable, efficient and seamless surface transportation system for the MAG Region



Manage and operate multimodal transportation systems

This Regional Concept of Transportation Operations marks an important shift in the MAG region from local deployments and systems to a **focus on operations from a regional perspective**. This means:

- ⇒ Agreeing on how operations needs to be approached at the regional level.
- ⇒ Identifying which functions are best left to the local agencies.
- ⇒ Focusing on those functions that need to be done with the region in mind or on a regional level.



Three and five year goals for these operational categories were developed and targets set to provide specific, focused directions for agencies in the Region to achieve the vision for enhanced regional operations.

- ⇒ Freeway Mobility
- ⇒ Arterial Mobility
- ⇒ Freeway Incident Management
- ⇒ Freeway-Arterial Interface
- ⇒ Arterial Incident Management
- ⇒ Transit Mobility
- ⇒ Computer System Reliability
- ⇒ Multi-Agency Coordination
- ⇒ Travel Information Provision



Share information, integrate systems, and coordinate among agencies

Agencies in the MAG Region have agreed that sharing and integrating information is a key to successful regional operations. This involves timely sharing of pertinent information such as:

- ⇒ **Special event traffic management strategies**, incident information, changes to signal timing plans, and other pertinent information among state and local agencies.
- ⇒ **Managing incidents on our freeways and arterials**, requires careful coordination between law enforcement, emergency services and transportation management before, during and after an incident, and improving those lines of communication enhances our understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities.



Identify and secure funding sources

Many of the identified initiatives and key functions needed for improving regional operations build on the **resources, activities and daily functions of agencies** in the MAG Region. Agencies can make funding for operations a priority by:

- ⇒ Packaging operational needs into current project or capital improvement programming.
- ⇒ Submitting operational projects to the MAG Transportation Improvement Program.
- ⇒ Working within existing programs and forums to promote operations needs.
- ⇒ Demonstrating benefits of ITS through "early winner" projects to provide incentives for continued support for RCTO activities.

Continuous improvement of performance against goals

Goals that were established as part of the RCTO focused on improvements to arterial and freeway mobility, improvements to clearing incidents on freeways and arterials, transit mobility and schedule adherence, overall system reliability, traveler information and coordination among agencies. Goals were set for three year and five year time frames, and for each of the goals, specific measures were identified.

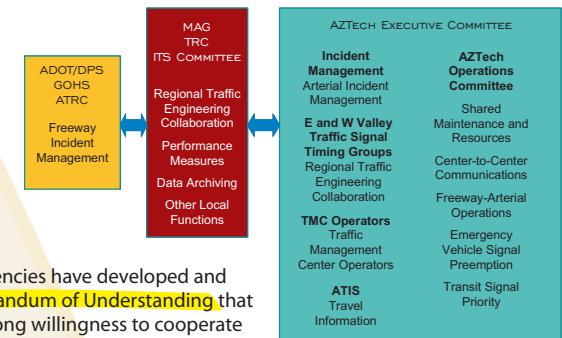
MAG will lead the performance monitoring, with support from agencies and the champions for each of the initiatives. The results of the **regional performance monitoring** will be reviewed, and agencies can incorporate the outcomes into their planning efforts, and the results will allow the region to better evaluate what's working well and what still needs further coordination to reach the **established goals**.



Defining and agreeing to roles and responsibilities

The RCTO was spearheaded by several local ITS "champions" from agencies throughout the MAG region. These **champions will lead key initiatives** aimed at improving specific aspects of regional operations. Many of these initiatives fall within existing regional forums. Champions will:

- ⇒ Provide leadership.
- ⇒ Bring individuals together to solve technical and institutional issues.
- ⇒ Coordinate projects and activities.
- ⇒ Report on progress, issues, and achievements.



Participating agencies have developed and signed a **Memorandum of Understanding**, that indicates the strong willingness to cooperate and coordinate to make the elements of the surface transportation system in the MAG Region work better and together.

Dedicating and training human resources



The most valuable asset to operations in the MAG Region is the people who manage, operate and maintain the many systems that comprise the regional transportation network. For regional operations, agencies need to:

- ⇒ Provide consistent training to agency staff for operations, management and maintenance to ensure that our systems are being **operated and maintained in a consistent manner**.
- ⇒ Look for **opportunities to share resources** to address common functions such as maintenance, to allow agencies to leverage limited funding resources by being able to call upon experienced resources throughout the region.

Establish and implement policies, procedures, and practices

Policies, practices, and procedures are needed for those functions that have regional impact, require consistent practices among several agencies, and that foster greater communication and coordination among local and regional agencies. The MAG Region will benefit from:

- ⇒ Procedures and practices to support data and information sharing among traffic, law enforcement and emergency services.
- ⇒ Procedures and practices for after-hours operational support of local traffic management centers.
- ⇒ Policies for improving incident clearance times on freeways and arterials.
- ⇒ Policies for coordinating freeway/arterial interfaces, including ramp meters.
- ⇒ A uniform standard for emergency vehicle signal preemption at traffic lights throughout the region.

The **Guidelines for Regional Transportation Operations** initiated through the Concept of Operations can serve the need for guidance in areas of operations that may need consistent operational practices.